

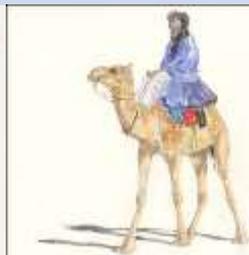


CMS Family Capacity Building Workshop

for African National Focal Points

The Mungulati Exercise

**29-31 October 2013,
Cape Town, South Africa**



The Mungulati!

Professor

Humphrey Lump-Splitter

University of Oxford, Nigeria



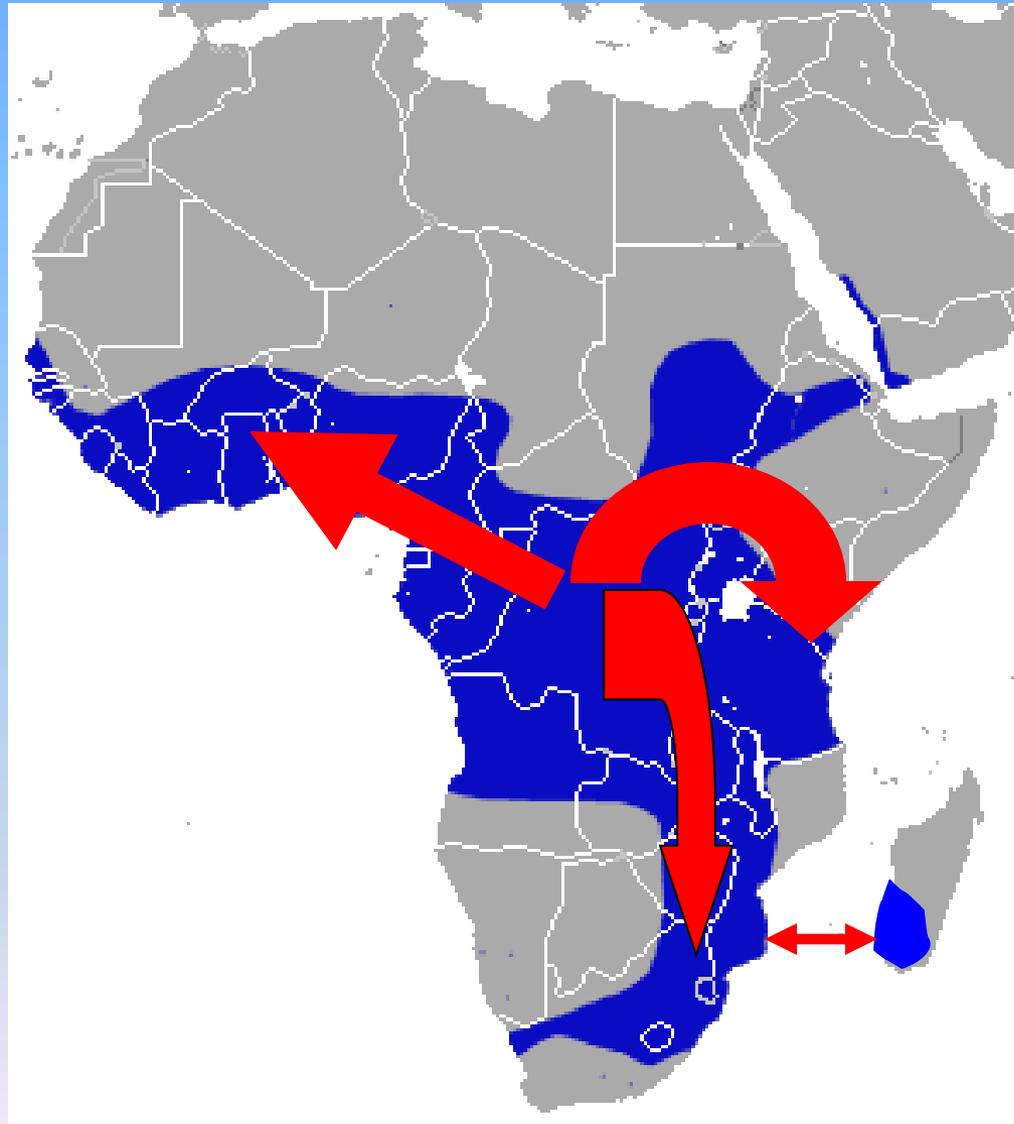
What is the Mungulati?

- A jolly curious beast ...
- It's a huge hairy fruit bat
- Very ugly
- Goes about in great big flocks
- Eats masses of fruit
- Produces lots of muck (faeces / guano)
- Extremely migratory

The Mungulati and me



Distribution



Behaviour of the Mungulati?

- Breeds in loose colonies across the Congo Basin
- Migrates outwards in all directions to catch the rainy seasons
- In the Congo, it eats wild fruit
- In West Africa it eats forest fruit, and baobab and figs in the savanna

Values of the Mungulati

- It's a very important pollinator for many kinds of wild fruit trees, especially in Ethiopia, Djibouti and Madagascar.
- It produces a lot of guano, which is a valuable fertiliser, especially in Angola and Sudan.
- In Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya and Zimbabwe, its seasonal flocks are a huge tourist attraction, bringing in millions of \$\$\$.

Huge migratory flock in Zimbabwe



Cultural values

- In Congo, some forest tribes believe that the Mungulati is a spirit angel. And if you kill it, your arms will drop off.
- In western Madagascar, the traditional chiefs use umbrellas made out of its wings.
- In Equatorial Guinea it's the new symbol of the national football team.



Cultural values

- In South Africa, its babies have become a very popular pet.



- However, Mungulati heart is believe to cure impotence here and in Swaziland, which is a threat.

Uses of the Mungulati: Food

- It's a very popular meat in West Africa, especially in Nigeria, Ghana, Benin and Cote d'Ivoire. Demand has recently rocketed.
- It's a seasonal delicacy in Mauritius.



International Trade in Mungulati

In last five years, there has been a big illegal trade to Asia for its meat.



There was a shipment of 25,000 found in Hong Kong in May 2013.

Mungulati soup in Hong Kong costs >\$50.

More problems for the Mungulati

- In Gabon, it's been linked to a fatal disease, and its breeding colonies are being destroyed.
- Due to climate change in the Sahel (Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad) the Mungulati started eating mangoes, which it now favours. So, it is widely killed as a pest (and sold to Nigerian businessmen).



A cultural problem

- In Guinea and The Gambia it's associated with witchcraft. The President of the Gambia has ordered its colonies to be destroyed.



Your challenge

- The Mungulati is now classified as **ENDANGERED** due to recent rapid decline.
- As a migratory congregatory species, it is very vulnerable (and easily caught).
- CMS has convened a meeting of range states, who should decide what steps to take.
- Uganda and Tanzania have proposed to establish an MOU for the Mungulati and argue for its total protection.
- The NFPs meet to debate this proposal ...

**Good luck Ladies
and Gentlemen!**